

March 26, 2020

St. Louis County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Update

As of 12:00 AM on 3/26/2020, the St. Louis County Department of Public Health (DPH) has:

- Two deaths. Today, DPH received notification of a death of a 80-89 female with chronic medical conditions.
- 143 total positive cases, an increase of 24 new positive cases from yesterday's 119.
- The St. Louis County Department of Health fielded a total of 368 calls on 3/25/2020. This is a decrease from the 604 calls fielded on 3/24/2020.

We acknowledge that although the laboratory test is becoming more broadly available, there are limitations in our public health and healthcare systems' capacity to obtain samples from people as rapidly as we would like. The healthcare community is working together to assure equitable access to COVID-19 testing resources in the St. Louis region.

Criteria for testing include:

Symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, cough, lower respiratory symptoms)

AND

- Hospitalized/critically ill patients
- People living in congregate settings
- Those at high risk for poorer outcomes including those >60 and people with chronic medical conditions
- Close contact to those with known COVID-19 infection
- Healthcare workers

Testing is focused on those who are the most ill or most at risk in our community because they will benefit most from the testing.

If you are ill, whether you test positive or negative, your healthcare provider's advice for managing your symptoms will be the same. Currently, anyone with a fever and cough should assume their illness could be COVID-19 and take steps to protect others in the community and household from the disease. If you are sick, you need to stay home and stay away from other people in your home. If you need to go into public to visit a healthcare provider, wear a mask and practice meticulous hand washing.

Testing locations and current screening process information can be found at www.stlcorona.com and:

North County – (314)653-5000, Mid County – (314)747-3000, West County – (314)251-0500, South County – (314)966-9666

Additionally, all SSM Health area hospitals can be reached for testing information at www.ssmhealth.com/covid19.

Close contact is defined as: (A) being within approximately 6 feet of a COVID-19 case for a prolonged period of time; close contact can occur while caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a healthcare waiting area or room with a COVID-19 case – *or* – (B) having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case (e.g., being coughed or sneezed on)

Daily Information

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services hotline can be reached at (877)435-8411.

St. Louis County has created a website dedicated to the dissemination of information relating to COVID-19, www.stlcorona.com. Please visit that website or those belonging to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) or the World Health Organization (WHO) for the most current and reputable information available.



Sergeant Benjamin Granda
Public Information Coordinator
314-615-4282
bgranda@stlouisco.com